

## CLAIMS

1 1. A method of forming a wear-resistant reinforcing coating on a substrate, the method  
2 comprising:  
3 (a) applying a liquid matrix material to the substrate;  
4 (b) disposing reinforcing fibers in the liquid matrix material;  
5 (c) placing particulate in contact with the liquid matrix material on an opposite  
6 side of the fibers from the substrate; and  
7 (d) hardening the liquid matrix material, thereby forming a composite of  
8 reinforcing fibers in a matrix of the hardened liquid matrix material with the  
9 wearing surface of particulate.

1 2. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the substrate is a solid substrate.

1 3. The method in accordance with claim 2, wherein the solid substrate is concrete.

1 4. The method in accordance with claim 2, wherein the solid substrate is asphalt

2 pavement.

1 5. The method in accordance with claim 2, wherein the solid substrate is wood.

1 6. The method in accordance with claim 2, wherein the solid substrate is fiberglass

2 composite.

1 7. The method in accordance with claim 2, wherein the solid substrate is metal.

1 8. The method in accordance with claim 2, wherein the solid substrate is modular bricks.

1 9. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the substrate is particulate.

1 10. The method in accordance with claim 9, wherein the particulate is soil.

1 11. The method in accordance with claim 9, wherein the particulate is sand.

1 12. The method in accordance with claim 9, wherein the particulate is gravel.

1 13. The method in accordance with claim 9, wherein the particulate is a combination  
2 selected from the group of soil, sand and gravel.

1 14. The method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising the step of interposing a  
2 membrane between the substrate and the liquid matrix material for preventing the liquid  
3 matrix material from adhering substantially to the substrate.

1 15. The method in accordance with claim 14, wherein the membrane is plastic sheeting.

1 16. The method in accordance with claim 14, wherein the membrane is a release agent.

1 17. The method in accordance with claim 14, wherein the substrate is a solid substrate.

1 18. The method in accordance with claim 17, wherein the solid substrate is concrete.

1 19. The method in accordance with claim 17, wherein the solid substrate is asphalt  
2 pavement.

1 20. The method in accordance with claim 17, wherein the solid substrate is wood.

1 21. The method in accordance with claim 17, wherein the solid substrate is fiberglass  
2 composite.

1 22. The method in accordance with claim 17, wherein the solid substrate is metal.

1 23. The method in accordance with claim 17, wherein the solid substrate is modular  
2 bricks.

1 24. The method in accordance with claim 14, wherein the substrate is particulate.

1 25. The method in accordance with claim 24, wherein the particulate is soil.

1 26. The method in accordance with claim 24, wherein the particulate is sand.

1 27. The method in accordance with claim 24, wherein the particulate is gravel.

1 28. The method in accordance with claim 24, wherein the particulate is a combination  
2 selected from the group of soil, sand and gravel.

1 29. A wear-resistant reinforcing coating formed on a substrate, the coating comprising:

2 (a) a matrix adjacent the substrate;

3 (b) reinforcing fibers disposed in the matrix for reinforcing the matrix; and  
4 (c) particulate adhered to the matrix on an opposite side of the fibers from the  
5 substrate.

1 30. The wear-resistant reinforcing coating in accordance with claim 29, wherein the  
2 substrate is a solid substrate.

1 31. The wear-resistant reinforcing coating in accordance with claim 29, wherein the  
2 substrate is particulate.

1 32. The wear-resistant reinforcing coating in accordance with claim 29, further  
2 comprising a membrane interposed between the substrate and the matrix, thereby  
3 preventing adhesion of the matrix to the substrate.

1 33. The wear-resistant reinforcing coating in accordance with claim 32, wherein the  
2 substrate is a solid substrate.

1 34. The wear-resistant reinforcing coating in accordance with claim 32, wherein the  
2 substrate is particulate.

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1 35. A method of forming a wear-resistant reinforcing coating on a solid substrate, the  
2 method comprising:

3 (a) applying a liquid matrix material to the substrate;

4 (b) interposing a membrane between the substrate and the liquid matrix material  
5 for preventing the liquid matrix material from adhering substantially to the solid  
6 substrate;

7 (c) disposing reinforcing fibers in the liquid matrix material;

8 (d) placing particulate in contact with the liquid matrix material on an opposite  
9 side of the fibers from the substrate; and

10 (e) hardening the liquid matrix material, thereby forming a composite of  
11 reinforcing fibers in a matrix of the hardened liquid matrix material with the  
12 wearing surface of particulate.

1 36. A wear-resistant reinforcing coating formed on a solid substrate, the coating  
2 comprising:

3 (a) a matrix adjacent the substrate;

4 (b) a membrane interposed between the substrate and the matrix, thereby  
5 preventing adhesion of the matrix to the substrate;

6 (c) reinforcing fibers disposed in the matrix for reinforcing the matrix; and

7 (d) particulate adhered to the matrix on an opposite side of the fibers from the  
8 substrate.

1       37. A method of forming a reinforced floor having a substrate, the method comprising:  
2           (a) applying a liquid matrix material to the substrate;  
3           (b) disposing reinforcing fibers in the liquid matrix material;  
4           (c) hardening the liquid matrix material, thereby forming a composite of  
5           reinforcing fibers in a matrix of hardened liquid matrix material, wherein an  
6           exposed surface of the reinforcement is unsuitable for foot traffic; and  
7           (d) mounting a layer of rigid flooring material to said substrate above said  
8           composite of reinforcing fibers, said layer of flooring material having a wearing  
9           surface that is suitable for traffic.

1       38. A reinforced floor having a planar substrate, the reinforced floor comprising:  
2           (a) a hardened, planar matrix mounted to the substrate;  
3           (b) reinforcing fibers disposed in the matrix;  
4           (c) a planar layer of rigid flooring material mounted to the substrate above the  
5           reinforcing fibers, said layer of flooring material having a planar wearing surface  
6           that is suitable for traffic.

1       39. A modular flooring unit of a discrete size and weight that can be lifted by a human,  
2       the flooring unit comprising:  
3           (a) a planar matrix;

4 (b) reinforcing fibers embedded in the matrix for reinforcing the matrix;

5 (c) particulate mounted to a major surface of the matrix.

1 40. The flooring unit in accordance with claim 39, wherein the particulate mounted to  
2 the matrix forms the traffic-bearing surface of the flooring unit.

1    41. A method of forming a modular flooring unit of a size and weight that can be lifted  
2    by a human, the method comprising:

3 (a) placing a liquid matrix material in a receptacle;

4 (b) disposing reinforcing fibers in the liquid matrix material;

5 (c) placing particulate in contact with the liquid matrix material on an opposite

6 side of the fibers from the substrate; and

7 (d) hardening the liquid matrix material, thereby forming a composite of

8 reinforcing fibers in a matrix of the hardened liquid matrix material with a traffic-

9 bearing surface of particulate.

1 42. A method of forming a wear-resistant reinforcing coating on a substrate, the method  
2 comprising:

- 3 (a) aligning a composite with the substrate, the composite comprising a hardened
- 4 matrix embedded with reinforcing fibers;
- 5 (b) applying an adhesive between the composite and the substrate;

6 (c) forcing the composite against the substrate with the adhesive in a layer  
7 interposed between the composite and the substrate;

8 (d) applying adhesive to the composite on a side of the composite opposite the  
9 substrate;

10 (e) placing particulate in contact with the adhesive; and

11 (f) hardening the adhesive, thereby forming a wearing surface of particulate.

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